

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-27 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new claims 38-54 as follows:

Claims 1-27 (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing a dry powder composition which is dispersible in an aqueous applicator the dry powder composition comprising calcium carbonate and, by weight, relative to calcium carbonate, from 4% to 11% of a polymeric binder, from 0.60% to 1.5% of a thickening agent and from 0.10% to 0.35% of a surfactant comprising the steps of:

preparing a premix comprising the surfactant, the thickening agent and a biocide/preservative; and adding the premix to at least part of the calcium carbonate and binder.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 28 including the step of dry mixing at least a portion of the calcium carbonate with at least some of the binder and adding the premix to the calcium carbonate/binder mixture.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 28 comprising mixing approximately half of the calcium

carbonate with the binder, adding the premix and subsequently adding the balance of the binder.

31. (Previously Presented) The method for preparing a coating composition for application in situ to a wall formed by a number of plasterboard sections comprising the step of mixing a dry powder composition as claimed in claim 28 with water.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 31 wherein the dry powder composition is mixed with water in an amount of approximately 2 kg of coating composition per 1 liter of water.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 31 including the step of adding a pigment to the mixture.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 33 wherein the pigment is added in an amount of from 0.5% to 5% by weight relative to calcium carbonate.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of coating a surface formed by a plurality of plasterboard sections comprising applying a coating composition as claimed in claim 28.

36. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the coating composition is applied by a spray coating technique.

37. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 35 wherein the coating composition is applied by a roller technique.

38. (New) A method for in-situ coating a surface formed by a plurality of plasterboard sections, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a coating composition comprising calcium carbonate and, by weight, relative to the calcium carbonate, from 4% to 11% of a polymeric binder, from 0.60% to 1.5% of a thickening agent and from 0.10% to 0.35% of a surfactant, dispersed in water; and
applying the coating composition to a surface formed by the plasterboard sections using one of an airless spray coating technique and a roller technique.

39. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the binder is an EVA binder.

40. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the surfactant is sodium citrate.

41. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the thickening agent is an inert mineral thickening agent.

42. (New) The method as claimed in claim 41, wherein the inert mineral thickening agent is derived from Attapulgate.

43. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the binder is present in an amount of approximately 5% by weight relative to the calcium carbonate.

44. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the binder is present in an amount of approximately 10% by weight relative to the calcium carbonate.

45. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the surfactant is present in an amount of approximately 0.15% by weight relative to the calcium carbonate.

46. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the surfactant is present in an amount of approximately 0.30% by weight relative to the calcium carbonate.

47. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the thickening agent is present in an amount of approximately 0.63% by weight relative to the calcium carbonate.

48. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the thickening agent is present in an amount of approximately 1.26% by weight relative to the calcium carbonate.

49. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a preservative/biocide.

50. (New) The method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the preservative/biocide is present in an amount of from 0.25% to 0.35% by weight relative to the calcium carbonate.

51. (New) The method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the preservative/biocide is sodium benzoate.

52. (New) The method as claimed in claim 49, wherein the preservative/biocide is present in an amount of approximately 0.30% by weight relative to the calcium carbonate.

53. (New) The method as claimed in claim 38, further comprising the step of adding a pigment to the mixture.

54. (New) The method as claimed in claim 53, wherein the pigment is added in an amount of from 0.5% to 5% by weight relative to calcium carbonate.